Orientation and Checking In

Orientation Dates:

International Student Orientation will take place from August 20th – August 21st this year. All new international students and transfer students must attend this orientation program. For students living in RIT Housing, the move-in date is August 19th. If you are arriving before this date, please discuss early move-in options with RIT Housing [https://myhousing.rit.edu](https://myhousing.rit.edu) or arrange accommodations in a nearby hotel. Here is a list of area hotels: [http://www.rit.edu/emcs/admissions/visit/info/area-hotels](http://www.rit.edu/emcs/admissions/visit/info/area-hotels)

Orientation Guide: An orientation guide is available online at this link:


This guide will also be provided to you upon arrival.

Pre-arrival

- What to bring:
  - Important documents – please remember to bring your passport (with a valid student visa), I-20 (F1 students) or DS-2019 (J1 students), medical records, hotel/housing confirmations, health insurance documents (if applicable).
  - **Please carry all your original / official transcripts or mark sheets to RIT as you will need to submit them to the Office of Graduate Studies upon arrival.**
  - Clothes – make sure you bring enough to last you at least 1-2 weeks! But once you get here, there will be plenty of opportunities to visit the malls and stores nearby to do some shopping. However, be sure to bring any cultural clothes with you that you think you may wear during festivals and religious holidays!
  - Medication – if you take any special medication, make sure to bring it with you! And remember to bring a doctor’s note along with it, just to be safe.
  - Jewelry – try not to bring anything incredibly expensive, but most students like bringing jewelry from their home country to match traditional clothing.
  - Electronics – if you have a cell phone or laptop, feel free to bring it. If you plan on buying one, we would recommend that you buy it over here, as it will be significantly cheaper.
  - Cosmetics/toothbrush – bring a toothbrush so you won’t be without one when you first get here.

- What not to bring
  - Stationery – everything available in foreign countries is also available here. In addition, you will most likely be getting lots of free notebooks, pens, pencils, etc.
when you arrive on campus – just make sure you attend as many events as possible during orientation!

- Utensils, such as pots, pans, spoons, forks, etc. Even special utensils used to cook ethnic foods can be found in local grocery stores, and online on amazon.com. However, if you would like to bring something not found on amazon.com, you should go ahead and bring it.
- Groceries – all spices and groceries that are available in foreign countries can be found here!
- Winter clothes – Unless your home country is very cold and snowy, we would recommend that you purchase winter clothes from the US.

How much money to bring?

- It is advisable to carry some amount of money, to last you a few days, or in case of emergencies. It is better if this money is in the form of traveler's checks or a Forex card. However, you should also carry around $50-$75 in cash and some loose change. Make sure you have lots of $1 bills with you!

Ask your PAL for more tips!

Arriving

- Airport pick-up

  - An airport pick-up service is available for students arriving between 9am - 5pm on August 14th – 18th. This service is organized by Global Union, a Major Student Organization at RIT which assists, supports and represents international students on campus and International Student Services.
  - Students can sign-up for the service by submitting this form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1uaRKq_YZ2bcS4o84-4DjtW4I_VohlVbPAZ-tzf9xWc/viewform?edit_requested=true
  - An airport pick-up service is available for students arriving between 9am - 5pm on August 19th. This service is organized by International Student Services.
  - Students can sign-up for the service by submitting this form: http://doodle.com/poll/xk22bmc9j9zqupa
  - A few days after you sign-up, you will receive notification as to whether or not you will be picked up from the airport.

- Taxis

  - If you are arriving outside the hours of the airport pick-up service, you will be able to take a taxi to your destination. Taxis are available at the airport. A taxi ride from the Airport to RIT and most places around RIT costs about $20 to $30. Most of the taxi drivers accept only cash and it is expected to pay about 15% of the fare as gratuity to the driver.
Moving-In

- On-campus: If you are moving to an RIT Residence Hall or On-campus Apartment, you must go to the Housing Operations office in Grace Watson Hall to pick-up your keys. If you arrive after 5pm, or if the Housing office is not open, you should go to the Public Safety office, which is also located in Grace Watson Hall, just a few steps from the Housing office.
- RIT Inn: Students moving into RIT Inn must get their keys at the front desk in the RIT Inn.
- Off-campus: If you are moving to an off-campus apartment complex, you must schedule your arrival date and key pick-up with the leasing office of the complex. Please make sure you make these arrangements BEFORE coming to the US.

What happens at International Student Orientation?

International Student Orientation will be your first chance to familiarize yourself with the RIT campus, learn about RIT culture, and get to meet new people. In addition, we will have many sessions which are required for all international students – these include sessions on immigration, employment, American culture, etc. In addition, you will have a chance to meet your PAL, attend campus tours and get questions answered by staff members and your peers. In the evenings, we have several social events for students to relax and socialize with one another.

More details about the schedule will be provided to you upon your arrival. This will include information on where you can eat during orientation, and transportation options during orientation. If you have any specific questions or concerns, please contact your PAL. In addition, if you require access services, such as American Sign Language interpreting, or C-Print, please let your PAL know!